

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

MC-02 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 CIEP-02

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R 121523Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3768

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW, TU, GR

SUBJECT: FRG ARMS ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY AND GREECE

BEGIN SUMMARY: FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER HAS ASKED
WHETHER THE USG IS INTERESTED IN MEETING GREEK REQUESTS
OF THE FRG FOR THE SALE OF ARMS WHILE THE FRG PROVIDES
GRANT ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. END SUMMARY

1. FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER CALLED THE CHARGE TO HIS
OFFICE ON JULY 12 TO DISCUSS FRG ARMS ASSISTANCE POLICY
VIS-A-VIS TURKEY AND GREECE AND THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL
RAMIFICATIONS FORESEEN IN CONNECTION WITH SALES TO
GREECE. THE FRG HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION GRANT AID OF
AIRCRAFT-48 TANKSAND SHIPS TO TURKEY. LEBER PLANS TO.
VISIT TURKEYIN THE FALL, PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY NATO
SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS, SO THAT THE GRANT AID, WHEN
DELIVERED, WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE ALLIANCE BLESSING RATHER
THAN BEING LINKED SPECIFICALLY TO THE FRG.

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2. THE GREEKS, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE REQUESTED TO BUY

GERMAN ARMS. OVER A PERIOD OF TIME THEY HAVE SUBMITTED VARIOUS REQUESTS INVOLVING SOME 18 DIFFERENT HARDWARE ITEMS. HOWEVER, TO ACCEDE TO THE GREEK REQUEST WOULD INVOLVE THE GOVERNMENT IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES. LEBER BELIEVES THE LEFT WING OF THE SPD, WITH ITS YOUTHFUL ELEMENTS, WOULD RAISE A HUE AND CRY ABOUT THE SALE OF ARMS TO A DICTATORSHIP WHICH, ALLEGEDLY, WOULD BE USED TO SUPPRESS THE PEOPLE. LEBER HAS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, BOTH OF WHOM AGREE THAT IT IS ONE BEST AVOIDED.

3. LEBER HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY TO SEEK WASHINGTON GUIDANCE REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIVISION OF LABOR IN SUPPLYING ARMS TO TURKEY AND GREECE. THE DIVISION OF LABOR ENVISAGED BY THE FRG WOULD ENTAIL GRANT AID BY THE FRG TO TURKEY AND U.S. ARMS SALES TO GREECE. LEBER SAID THE VARIOUS GREEK ARMS REQUESTS COULD BE PROVIDED TO WASHINGTON WHEN AND AS REQUIRED.

4. CHARGE COMMENTED THAT U.S. ALSO HAS DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH SUPPLYING ARMS TO GREECE, BUT SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION.

5. LEBER IS LEAVING THIS AFTERNOON FOR AUSTRIA ON A FOUR-WEEK HOLIDAY. THEREFORE, THE QUESTION WHICH HE HAS POSED DOES NOT REQUIRE AN URGENT ANSWER. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A RESPONSE TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER UPON HIS RETURN TO BONN IN LATE AUGUST. APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED.

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